

Date

MANIFESTO AND CONSTITUTION

OF

UNITED FARMERS
OF CANADA
(ALBERTA SECTION)



THIRD REVISED EDITION

*For Information and Particulars,
write to:*

R. J. BOUTILLIER, Central Secretary
Willingdon, Alberta

PREAMBLE

At a large farmers' meeting, held in Willingdon, Sept. 3, 1938, to protest against the pegged low price for wheat, it was unanimously decided that in view of the prices for products sold and prices paid for the necessities, the only effective action to take was to form a United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section), non-political farmers' union. The meeting was sponsored by farmers of all political affiliations and, for once, political differences were submerged because of the acutely critical economic situation which made it necessary to do so.

Dictated to as to prices whenever we sell our products, and dictated to as what prices we must pay for our necessities, it will only be by co-operative action on the part of all farmers that we place ourselves in a position to do a little dictating ourselves. Self help is the only solution and we need not depend on the associated industries with whom we must deal, to protect our interests before their own.

It is hoped that the action taken at Willingdon by bonafide farmers will bear fruit and thus a powerful farmers' non-political organization will be built up throughout the province to effectively protect the farming interests.

The effectiveness of this organization will depend wholly on the initiative of the individual farmer, expressing himself through a zealous, wide-awake Secretary and President of the Local.

"UNITED WE STAND — DIVIDED WE FALL."

The value of farm grain products in the west in the year 1928	
, amounted to	\$ 851,000,000.00
Ten years later, 1938	238,000,000.00
Federal Income Tax Report for 1936—Banks, Mortgage	
Co's Etc.	10,718,146.00
Manufacturers	15,192,405.00
Merchants and Wholesalers	4,354,099.00
783,000 Farmers paid	56,427.00
324,000 people paid income tax in 1937, of these only 1,200 were farmers.	

MANIFESTO

In view of the economic conditions under which we farmers are labouring, and these conditions promise to become steadily worse, we realize that as an unorganized vocational group we are helpless to better our conditions. We deem it absolutely necessary to form a farmers' non-political union, to which all farmers regardless of political affiliation, nationality or religion, can belong.

Our land is wearing out, machinery wearing out, while our debts are steadily mounting because of meagre prices received for our products. The time is long overdue for practical concrete action on our part. We want to form a similar organization to that of the UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA (Saskatchewan Section) .

Our aim is to form a powerful farmers' union in Alberta, the Province which has some 97,000 farmers and to work in close conjunction and harmony with the organized farmers of other prairie provinces, and if the farmers of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are prepared to declare a non-delivery grain strike, or a seeding strike, if the situation warrants it, that we will have an organization here, in Alberta that will back them up in the fight for decent prices and general economic justice for the farmers in this Dominion. Also when our farmers' union representatives go before the political or industrial powers that-be, they will be able to speak with the backing of 150,000 or more organized farmers. All other important vocational groups have organized for mutual benefit and self-protection. We deem it urgent that we do the same. The powerful railroad men's union of some 93,000 members, is a sterling example of what a large organized non-political union can do.

We also aim to foster and promote farmers co-operative enterprises such as the Wheat Pools, U.G.G., Dairy Pools, etc. and thus eliminate the system of tremendous duplicative services that we, farmers, are maintaining and absolutely cannot afford. We realize that we have made mistakes in the past in co-operative enterprises, chiefly due to inexperience and tre-

mendous opposition, but we realize that only by working together, buying and selling together, the same way as the farmers in Denmark and Sweden are doing, can we do anything to achieve our economic salvation. To that end we firmly believe that the formation of this farmers' non-political union, as a member of United Farmers of Canada, is a practical move in the right direction to achieve some means of receiving economic justice.

PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION

The Name of Organization

The name of this Association to be: UNITED FARMERS OF CANADA (Alberta Section).

Aims and Purposes of the Organization

This association to work in closest harmony and cohesion with the United Farmers organization of Saskatchewan and Manitoba to take whatever legitimate means in conjunction with them to press our claims for economic justice from the political and industrial powers that-be; to build a powerful organization in order to give backing to justified claims on their part. To promote and foster farmer co-operative enterprises

Strictly Non-Political

The status of this organization to be strictly non-political and under no circumstances is the organization to be used to promote the welfare of any political party.

Qualification for Membership

Membership in this organization is open only to farmers who actually reside on farms.

The Board

All members of the Executive and Board to be bonafide farmers and paid up members of the association.

The Board shall comprise the following:—President; Vice-President; second Vice-President; Secretary-Treasurer and twelve Directors. The Board to be elected by delegates at the provincial convention, with exception that the secretary be

appointed by the Board of Directors.

Duties of the Board

The President or Secretary shall call meetings of the Board whenever a situation arises and they deem it advisable to do so.

The Board may call a convention at any time that necessity dictates, but one convention a year must be held.

The Board may hire any technical help that the successful operation of this organization may dictate

The Executive must keep in close touch with all happenings, economic and political, which may affect the welfare of the farmers. They are the responsible guardians of the farmers' interests and shall take such action as they deem advisable.

Delegates

Each Local shall be entitled to one delegate at the Provincial Convention, for each ten members, or the major portion thereof, membership dues to be in good standing.

Amendments

All amendments to Constitution to be by two-thirds majority vote.

Additional clauses and amendments to this Constitution may be made at any duly called convention, with the exception of the basic clause regarding its non-political status that cannot be changed by any convention.

Local Constitution

1. Any seven farmers may form a Local.
2. Each Local shall elect a President, Vice-President, Secretary and four Directors.
3. The membership fees at present are \$1.00 per year, which must be sent to the Central Secretary. The fee for Local expenses is to be set by the members of the Local.
4. All members to be farmers actually residing on farms.
5. Each Local to be run on a strictly non-political basis. It will be the responsibility of the chairman to see that

this is carried out.

6. But legislation which affects the welfare of the farmers may be freely discussed.
 7. This organization is open to all farmers regardless of political affiliation, national origin or religious beliefs, thus paving the way for united action on the part of farmers to achieve economic justice.
 8. Delegates to the convention shall be based on one delegate to each ten members or major portion thereof.
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ORDER OF LOCAL MEETINGS

1. Dealing with application for membership and initiation.
 2. Minutes of previous meeting and business arising therefrom.
 - 3.. Reports of Committees.
 4. Communication from central Secretary and action thereon.
 5. Unfinished Business.
 6. New Business.
 7. Good and Welfare.
 8. Date of next meeting and place.
 9. Motion to adjourn.
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OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To build a powerful farmer organization within the province, to give weight to legitimate demands;
2. To establish a western interprovincial farmers' board so that unified action on the part of western farmers may take place.
3. To establish more equitable returns for our produce so a higher standard of living and a greater sense of security may result, and to that end, the establishment of *parity prices* is our paramount objective.
4. Co-ordination of all farmers' organizations and co-operative enterprises.

FARMERS: We must unite to promote the well-being of our industry. Self-help is our only solution. Let our slogan be "Determination and Loyal Co-operation."

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO FORM A LOCAL

The meeting is called to order by the person responsible for calling the same

A chairman and secretary are appointed. The chairman calls on the opener of the meeting to explain the purpose for calling same. He then explains.

A farmer moves, and another seconds, that a Local be formed. After discussion the motion is put to a vote. If it carries, the chairman calls for a sign up of members. (Seven being necessary to form a Local).

After the sign up of members takes place, the chairman calls for nominations for the office of President; one or more may be nominated by members. If a vote is necessary, the nominee with the majority becomes president.

The president then takes the chair and calls for the nomination of a vice-president, secretary and then four directors who are elected by a similar procedure.

The secretary collects the membership dues, issuing receipt for same and forwards the names of members and dues, along with a report of the meeting to Mr. R. J. BOUTILLIER, Central Secretary, who will, in turn, issue a receipt to the local secretary for dues and forward membership cards along with receipt books. The Local is then established and entitled to take part in any convention that follows.

**INCREASED MEMBERSHIP MEANS INCREASED POWER
WITH WHICH TO FIGHT THE FARMERS' BATTLE.
HELP TO INCREASE THAT POWER BY JOINING YOUR
FARM UNION WITHOUT DELAY!**

Executive and Directors

Wm. YUSEP,
President
Ispas, Alta.

H. R. BOUTILLIER,
1st Vice-President,
Hairy Hill, Alta.

C. O. McGOWAN,
2nd Vice-President,
Hairy Hill, Alta

R. J. BOUTILLIER,
Secretary-Treasurer
Willingdon, Alta.

FRANCIS AUSTIN, Ranfurly
F. BOYCHUK, Smoky Lake
B. CROLL, Chipman
W. E. DAVIS, Elk Point
J. G. DOBRY, Phillips
C. A. JENKINS, Sprucefield

W. G. LOGAN, Holden
J. F. MALENKA, Warwick
G. T. PAWLIUK, Whitford
H. T. PAYNE, Vegreville
W. A. ROMANIUK, Wostok
PETER SAMOIL, Plain Lake

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